



Hazardous Waste Education Fee - 2003

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The Hazardous Waste Education Fee funds programs that help businesses learn about the benefits of hazardous waste reduction and how to comply with state and federal hazardous waste regulations.

State law requires you to pay a fee (WAC 173-305-110) each year to help businesses - particularly small ones - find ways to prevent environmental pollution. During the past 11 years, a flat \$35 fee has been assessed to cover waste reduction support activities. Last year, the fee was increased to \$46 to allow for increased program costs, due to inflation.

The current fee of \$46 pays for activities like conducting workshops, providing phone and on-site consultation services, and developing literature on pollution prevention.

Who pays the fee?

The Hazardous Waste Education Fee applies to businesses that generated any quantity of hazardous waste during 2002. You received a bill because your business is classified in a business code as one that typically generates hazardous waste, **and** the value of your products, gross proceeds of sales or gross income exceeded \$12,000 in 2002.

What is "Hazardous Waste"?

Ecology considers wastes as hazardous when they have properties that endanger human health or the environment. A regulated waste can be on a federal or state list (see WAC 173-303-081 or -082), can exhibit a federal or state characteristic (see WAC 173-303-090), or exhibit a state criteria (see WAC 173-303-100). The following list gives examples of some of these waste streams, along with the characteristics that make them "hazardous:"

Waste Streams

battery acid, sodium hydroxide,
drain cleaner

paint thinner, spent solvents,
acetone

explosives, cyanides,
hypochlorides

used antifreeze, heavy metals,
photo processing wastes

Characteristic Corrosivity

Ignitability

Reactivity

Toxicity

How is hazardous waste generated?

Many businesses and industries create hazardous wastes as they provide a service or product to their customers. Some products you might use are hazardous from the start, while others pick up contaminants as you use them. *Either way, the waste is generated and subjects the generating facility to a fee.*

A partial list naming some sources of hazardous wastes appears below:

- ✓ **Painting** - paints, solvents, paint and lacquer thinners, empty containers with residuals of hazardous materials, demolition debris, fungicides
- ✓ **Parts Cleaning** - solvents, acids, caustics, shop rags
- ✓ **Equipment Fueling, Maintenance or Repair** - solvents, used oil, used antifreeze, paints, spilled or leaked gasoline and diesel
- ✓ **Machining** - solvents, coolants, cutting oil, shop rags
- ✓ **Heavy Machinery Operation** - oils, coolants, solvents, shop rags
- ✓ **Printing** - inks, solvents, shop rags
- ✓ **Photo Processing** - silver, developer, fixer
- ✓ **Janitorial and Ground Maintenance** - cleaners, waxes, pesticides, paints, spent fluorescent tubes
- ✓ **Construction** - adhesives, paints, solvents, empty containers with residuals of hazardous materials

✓ **Pesticide Applications**

paints, chemicals, oils solvents

✓ **Warehouse Maintenance Activities**

out of date chemicals, residues, spills, spent fluorescent tubes

The proper *management* of waste (recycling, treatment, or disposal) does not negate the fact that it was *generated* in the first place. *Management* does not exempt you from fee requirements.

When is the fee due?

Businesses must pay the fee by **June 30, 2003**. We have enclosed a return envelope with a pre-printed return address to help make payment easier. Make sure to enclose the billing statement with your payment or we may be unable to credit your account.

I know my business did not generate hazardous waste during last year. Do I still have to pay the fee?

No. Only businesses that generate hazardous waste must pay this fee, but you must write to Ecology and request a review of your fee status.

How do I request a waiver?

If you believe you did not generate hazardous waste in **2002**, send a signed letter that includes:

- ✓ a request for a fee waiver;
- ✓ a description of your business activities in sufficient detail that Ecology can evaluate your request; and
- ✓ your telephone number

Attach the billing coupon to your letter and mail it in the return envelope that has been provided. Waiver requests must be mailed by **June 30, 2003**.

Do I need to call Ecology first?

No. If you know the fee does not apply to you, just send in the written request with your coupon.

Ecology will review your request and contact you with any questions or concerns. If you are not sure if you need to pay the fee, call the toll-free phone number listed in the next section. We will help you make the determination. However, fee waivers will not be granted by phone.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

Call the Department of Ecology at **1-800-633-7585**. *Make sure to have the billing coupon in front of you.* You will need to refer to two important numbers — your Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code and your Department of Revenue (DOR) Tax Identification Number. Both numbers are printed on the coupon, just above your name and address.

The toll-free number places you into a voice answering system designed to connect you with a staff person familiar with your industry. Follow the instructions provided in the box below as they are referred to in the message.

To Call the Hazardous Waste Education Fee Hotline:

1. Dial 1-800-633-7585. Listen to the introductory message.
2. Press "4" to reach the Hazardous Waste Education Fee menu.
3. Look at your billing coupon. Find your four-digit Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code printed above your name and address.
4. Look at the first digit of your SIC Code number.
Is the number 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5? **PRESS 1**
Is the number 6, 7, 8, or 9? **PRESS 2**
5. You will be connected with an Ecology staff person. He or she may ask for your nine-digit Department of Revenue (DOR) Tax Identification Number. You can find it above your name and address. The staff person will use this number to verify the status of your fee account.



Department of Ecology Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program

Free Help for Businesses

Spalding Auto Parts is an auto recycling facility that makes every effort to apply best management practices for properly handling hazardous materials to prevent pollutants from entering the environment. Vehicles are dismantled in a large enclosed building as they enter the facility. Hazardous fluids and other materials are immediately drained from the vehicles before being stored in the yard. Spalding also designed an efficient vehicle and parts racking system that allows easy access and monitoring. They communicate with other industry leaders to keep up-to-date on the latest pollution prevention technology. Their practices demonstrate a desire to pursue high environmental standards within their industry.

Many businesses are unaware that some of the materials they work with may contain hazardous substances that endanger human health and the environment. The Department of Ecology provides information to all businesses to promote pollution prevention and effective waste management.

Ecology maintains regional offices in Bellevue, Lacey, Spokane and Yakima. Toxics reduction professionals in each location provide technical assistance to all Washington businesses, industries and governmental agencies. These experts offer you **non-enforcement** assistance to help with your pollution prevention efforts. They can also explain the requirements of the *Dangerous Waste Regulations*. Many businesses have successfully reduced the amount of waste they generate by working closely with our staff.

Hands-on Help to Business

Ecology staff can help you by providing:

On-site assistance

Toxics reduction specialists are trained to help solve specific waste reduction and waste management issues. They can also help you understand Washington's dangerous waste rules.

Phone Consultation

Over the phone, you can get general advice on pollution prevention methods and regulatory compliance.

Printed Information

The Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program publishes many documents that cover pollution prevention methods for your industry.

Batdorf & Bronson Coffee Roasters an Olympia-based business, buys and roasts green coffees from around the world. In 2001, it offset all of its emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases (258 tons), through the Bonneville Environmental Foundation's Green Tags program. The company pays extra for electricity to support energy research and alternative sources of power, such as solar and wind. In 2001, the company reduced its overall waste volume by 30 percent and bought approximately 80 percent of its raw bean stock from environmentally superior farming operations. Batdorf & Bronson was one of the winners of the 2002 Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention & Sustainable Practices.

For example, 25,000 businesses receive the *Shoptalk* newsletter each quarter. This document covers the latest proven techniques for waste reduction. It also offers sound advice on how you can work within regulatory guidelines. To obtain a free copy, call (360) 407-7472.

Other documents, like the series *Success Through Waste Reduction, Volumes I-IV*, contain valuable information specifically on pollution prevention. Call Dave Zink at (360) 407-6752 to obtain a copy of these and other publications, or to subscribe to the *Shoptalk* newsletter.

Training

We sponsor a variety of workshops and seminars to share information about the pollution prevention successes of others. Many of their techniques can work for you!

Last year, Ecology staff conducted 845 site visits, provided 7,358 phone consultations and sponsored 34 workshops attended by 2,443 participants.

The Benefits of Pollution Prevention

Businesses that use any amount of hazardous materials find that reducing their use of these products benefits the company and also preserves the environment. Preventing pollution:

- ◆ Improves worker health and safety.
- ◆ Increases cost management and savings, particularly in the areas of waste disposal, business administration, regulatory compliance and potential liabilities..
- ◆ Improves process efficiency.
- ◆ Reduces regulatory requirements.

Make the call!

Call the regional office nearest you to be connected with a pollution prevention expert.

Western Washington

Northwest Regional Office - Bellevue

Main Reception (425) 649-7000

Dennis Johnson, Supervisor

Toxics Reduction Unit (425) 649-7040

Southwest Regional Office - Lacey

Main Reception (360) 407-6300

Hugh O'Neill, Supervisor

Toxics Reduction Unit (360) 407-6354

Eastern Washington

Central Regional Office - Yakima

Main Reception (509) 575-2490

Brian Dick, Section Supervisor

Toxics Reduction Unit (509) 454-7659

Eastern Regional Office - Spokane

Main Reception (509) 329-3400

Lisa Brown, Supervisor

Toxics Reduction Unit (509) 329-3409

OR: VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/index.html>

The Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program is responsible for managing and reducing hazardous waste and toxic substances in Washington. If you have a question, please contact a Toxics Reduction Specialist or Hazardous Waste Specialist at your nearest regional office.

The Department of Ecology is an equal opportunity agency and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, disability, age, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disabled veteran's status, Vietnam Era veteran's status or sexual orientation.

If you have special accommodation needs or require this document in an alternative format, please contact the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at voice (360) 407-6700 or TTY 711, or (800) 833-6388.

